

2008 Southern S&PF Redesign Competitive Process Proposal

Applicant (Agency) Contact Information

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Project Information

Project Name	North Carolina's Longleaf Pine Initiative & Action Plan				
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Abstract of Project Proposal

In August 2006, NCDFR adopted a 5-year Longleaf Initiative & Action Plan with the overall goal of sustaining and promoting the restoration of longleaf pine forests in NC through an effort to establish new stands, conserve existing stands, and promote total resource management. Through this project DFR will work with its partners to implement the plan's 6 identified objectives and associated action items.

Partnering Agencies and Groups/Organizations	Longleaf Alliance; NC Cooperative Extension Service; NCSU Extension Forestry; NC Sandhills Conservation Partnership; NC Forestry Assoc.; USDA Forest Service, FSA & NRCS; NC Wildlife Resources Commission; USFWS; NCDENR Office of Conservation & Community Affairs, Natural Heritage Program, State Parks Division; NC Tree Farm Prog.; NC Woodlands; SERPPAS, NC Urban Forest Council; The Nature Conservancy; The Conservation Fund; Southern Forest Nursery Coop; Southern Center for Sustainable Forests
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Project Location	North Carolina Sandhills & Coastal Plain Region – roughly 50 counties
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Expected Completion Quarter	4 th Qtr. FFY 2009-2010
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Total Federal Funding Request	\$276,000
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Total Proposal Budget (including match)	Project Income Sources
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	Organization*	Grant	DFR Match	Combined Partner Match	Match	Total
	Dollars	\$276,000				\$276,000
	Donations					
	In Kind Services		\$276,000			\$276,000
	Total	\$276,000	\$276,000			\$552,000

Project Name	North Carolina's Longleaf Pine Initiative & Action Plan
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Explanation of project

DFR is seeking funding to implement the Longleaf Initiative Action Plan adopted in September 2006 as described below.

In 1993 the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (DFR) implemented a Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative. The Initiative focused on artificial regeneration to restore longleaf pine on suitable sites within its historical range in the lower Piedmont and Coastal Plains of NC. A goal to double the annual number of acres planted to longleaf was proposed.

Generally the goals of the 1993 Longleaf Initiative have been met. Numerous training workshops were conducted, seedling quality improved, containerized and bare root seedling production increased to a level that exceeded demand, and an average of 5200 acres of longleaf seedlings were planted annually. Unfortunately, recent Forest Inventory Analysis reports that North Carolina is still losing thousands of acres of longleaf pine forests each year.

Beginning in 2005, DFR conducted a series of planning sessions with partners and stakeholders to develop a new action-oriented plan, with realistic strategies to address a broader set of priority issues, challenges and needs. The plan, adopted in September 2006, identifies 6 goals:

- I. Promote the priority establishment of longleaf ~~islands~~ ~~to increase~~ the total number of acres of longleaf in

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2. Prioritization

This project is a high priority for DFR. It is ranked #5 out of the 24 proposals prepared by DFR. This proposal is ranked high because the reintroduction of Longleaf pine into its historic range and the restoration of the Longleaf pine ecosystem has long been a recognized priority in NC and throughout the Southeast. Between 1990 and 2002, the area in Longleaf pine forest type in NC declined by 30%, an

- Continue membership in the LL Alliance and Sandhills Conservation Partnership.
- Initiate the several applied research & demonstration studies

6. Technology

DFR is evaluating Landmark Systems inventory and growth and yield software for applications in natural and planted LL stands at BLSF, managed under various primary objectives – pine straw, RCW habitat, timber, and ecological values. This and other appropriate technology will be used to help landowners make better decisions regarding LL establishment and management on private lands.

7. Integrated Delivery

The Longleaf Initiative was designed to influence recovery of the LL ecosystem across ownership and organizational boundaries. Delivery of action items will be accomplished through partnerships with agencies and organizations that have a long history of collaboration.

8. Leverage

Federal funding will be leveraged with an equal or greater amount of state appropriations; primarily DFR staff time devoted to implementation of the initiative. It is expected that partners will contribute an additional in-kind match valued in excess of 50% of the grant request; however, this exact commitment is premature at this time. Federal funds will be used to support staffing of a forestry intern to work with the conifer silviculturist on research and demonstration projects, and to support training and education priorities, including printed and internet-based resources, nursery and tree improvement efforts, and operational needs.

9. Influence Positive Change

NC has been a leader in longleaf pine restoration and is committed to working with partners and stakeholders to influence actions toward positive change. Most notably, the overall objective of the LL Initiative is to sustain and promote restoration of Longleaf pine ecosystems in North Carolina through an effort to establish new stands, conserve existing stands, and promote total resource management.

10. Timeliness

The Longleaf Initiative 5-year action plan was adopted by DFR management September 2006 and is projected to run through December 2010. Funding for this project is requested for the period – January 2008 – September 2010.